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Oracle plans to join e-commerce initiative

Chris Jones. **InfoWorld**. San Mateo: Mar 31, 1997. Vol. 19, Iss. 13;
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Abstract (Summary)

In April 1997, Oracle Corp. will pledge to support JavaSoft's Java Shopping Cart in its Project Apollo electronic-commerce platform. The initiative will come as part of a large e-commerce announcement. Java Shopping Cart - part of JavaSoft's Java Commerce Toolkit - is an applet for online merchants to store buyer's purchases as they surf commerce-enabled Web sites.

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Full Text (334 words)

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ORACLE NEXT MONTH will pledge to support JavaSoft's Java Shopping Cart in its Project Apollo electroniccommerce platform. The initiative will come as part of a larger e-commerce announcement.

Java Shopping Cart - part of JavaSoft's Java Commerce Toolkit - is an applet for online merchants to store buyers' purchases as they surf commerce-enabled Web sites. The applet also totals the bill of the products and sends the information to a merchant server to complete the transaction.

Oracle's Project Apollo Internet Merchant Server, which is a cartridge for Web Server 3.0 and the linchpin in Oracle's e-commerce strategy, will support the Shopping Cart applet and provide developers with back-end servers and databases to which they can link their e-commerce applications. Shopping Cart also fits in with Oracle's thin-client network computer and smart-card plans. (See article, right.)

Although Java is a stretch for e-commerce applications in the short term, Java Shopping Cart and Java Wallet could provide a compelling online shopping experience.

"A trusted-source service that could be called and used to dynamically assemble a user's identity and wallet fits better with the whole need for portability," said Stan Dolberg, an analyst at Forrester Research, in Cambridge, Mass. "If you buy something from a Java station at an airport, for example, you would want to download your wallet from a trusted site or use a smart card to do it."

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Java Wallet, a key element of the Java Commerce Toolkit currently in beta testing, manages a user's credit cards, electronic cash, digital certificates, and other payment information. ⁱOracle declined to comment, but sources said Java Wallet will also be part of ⁱOracle's announcement.

Some analysts said JavaSoft's biggest chore will be getting its commerce software onto users' desktops.

"What other distribution plans does JavaSoft have, and how does it get on the desktop - which ⁱMicrosoft and Netscape pretty much control?" asked Chris Stevens, an analyst at the ⁱAberdeen Group, in Boston.

"Java implementations make sense long term, but it's an issue of timing," Stevens said.

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